

STATE OF MACOMB COUNTY ADDRESS

NANCY M. WHITE, CHAIR
MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 9, 2003

IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE AND DISTINCT HONOR TO BE WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON. I AM *ALWAYS HAPPY* TO TALK ABOUT OUR FAIR COUNTY BUT IT IS TRULY EXCITING FOR ME TO REPORT TO YOU TODAY ~ *IN THE OFFICIAL CAPACITY OF* BOARD CHAIR ~ ON THE STATE OF MACOMB COUNTY.

I CAN TELL YOU THISTHE COUNTY IS IN GOOD SHAPE!

- ❖ FISCALLY SOUND
- ❖ HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
- ❖ POSITIONED FOR CONTINUED GROWTH
- ❖ POISED FOR EVEN GREATER SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE

AND ~ THIS IS NOT AN ACCIDENT!

MANY, MANY DEDICATED AND COMMITTED PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING THE COUNTY ON THE RIGHT PATH. THERE ARE MANY TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK:

- ❖ OUR TALENTED EMPLOYEES WHO KEEP THE “WHEELS TURNING.”
- ❖ OUR FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE TIRELESSLY ON COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS AND WHO HELP LOOK OUT FOR OUR CHILDREN AND SENIORS
- ❖ WE HAVE A FINE CADRE OF COMMUNITY LEADERS and INVOLVED CITIZENS

❖ AS WELL AS OUR FIVE COUNTY-WIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS

❖ AND, OF COURSE, MY COLLEAGUES ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE DEDICATED TO ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL MACOMB COUNTY RESIDENTS.

TOGETHER ~ WE ARE AN UNBEATABLE TEAM.

IT IS UNUSUAL TO BEGIN A “STATE OF THE COUNTY” ADDRESS WITH THE ISSUE OF SECURITY; HOWEVER, GIVEN THE SERIOUS STATE OF AFFAIRS IN OUR COUNTRY AND IN OUR WORLD, I KNOW IT IS UPPERMOST IN EVERYONE’S MIND.

FOR THIS REASON, I WANT TO BEGIN BY ASSURING YOU THAT MACOMB COUNTY IS PREPARED.

WE ARE PRO~ACTIVELY ENGAGED AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY.

LET ME INTRODUCE OUR DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION, LOU MIODUSZEWSKI.

LOU HEADS UP THE COUNTY’S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE TEAM WHICH FUNCTIONS AS A DYNAMIC RESOURCE AND CONDUIT OF VITAL INFORMATION.

I ATTENDED A TRAINING SESSION A FEW WEEKS AGO WHERE LOU WAS RECOGNIZED BY LT. MARK MARTINEZ OF THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE AS ONE OF THE TOP EMERGENCY MANAGERS IN THE STATE. THE EMERGENCY ACTION GUIDELINES AND HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN THAT LOU AND HIS DEPARTMENT HAVE AUTHORED ARE USED AS A MODEL AROUND THE STATE.

LT. MARTINEZ ANNOUNCED THAT MACOMB COUNTY IS “AHEAD OF THE CURVE” AND MUCH BETTER PREPARED THAN OTHER COUNTIES IN THE STATE.

THE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM COORDINATES ACTIVITIES BETWEEN:

- ❖ THE STATE POLICE AND THE MACOMB COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARMENT
- ❖ THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE
- ❖ THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
- ❖ SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE AND TACOM

AND ~

- ❖ 25 LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE COUNTY
- ❖ 8 HOSPITALS
- ❖ 21 SCHOOL DISTRICTS COMPRISING 229 SCHOOL BUILDINGS –PLUS THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT (ISD).

- ❖ AND, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, OUR 788,000 RESIDENTS

THE NATURE, VOLUME AND SPEED OF EVOLVING EVENTS, WITH RELATED ALERTS AND DIRECTIVES ~ INCOMING AND OUTGOING ~ PRESENTS A FORMIDABLE TASK FOR OUR PEOPLE. NONETHELESS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM IS UP TO THE CHALLENGE!

LET ME TELL YOU WHY:

- ❖ THERE IS CONTINUOUS OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS
- ❖ PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE FOR GATHERING AND DISSEMINATING CRITICAL INFORMATION THROUGH OUR OWN SPECIAL FREQUENCY “EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM”. WE HAVE DIRECT CONTACT BY WAY OF 80 MONITORS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.
- ❖ MECHANISMS HAVE BEEN CREATED TO ALERT AND ASSIST THOSE CHARGED WITH PROTECTING THE PUBLIC WHETHER THEY BE IN A CLASSROOM, A HOSPITAL BED OR THEIR HOME.

ALSO COMPLETED:

- ❖ A COUNTY-WIDE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL MITIGATION PLAN
- ❖ JOINT EXERCISES WITH SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE IN HARRISON TWP. AND TACOM IN WARREN TO ASSURE AN INTEGRATED RESPONSE BY THE COUNTY AND THE BASE. AND ANOTHER JOINT EXERCISE IS PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER.

TODAY’S TERRORISM THREAT PUTS US IN *UNCHARTED WATERS* BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT LOU AND HIS STAFF ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED AND TO KEEP OUR CITIZENS INFORMED AND OUT OF HARM’S WAY.

HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE CONCERNING OURSELVES WITH OUR OWN HOMELAND SECURITY, LET US

REMEMBER THE PEOPLE ~ *INNOCENT* PEOPLE ~ ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD WHO LIVE IN HARM’S WAY *EVERY DAY*. LET US REMEMBER OUR *YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE*, AND LET US REMEMBER THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS...SOME OF WHOM MAY BE IN THIS AUDIENCE TODAY. KNOW THAT OUR HOPES AND PRAYERS

ARE WITH YOU ~ AND THEM ~ *THAT ~ PEACE ~ WILL ~ COME ~ SOON.*

RIGHT NEXT TO PERSONAL SECURITY, *FINANCIAL SECURITY* IS HIGH ON EVERYONE'S LIST OF *PRIORITIES*. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT THE NATIONAL ECONOMY HAS SUFFERED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. BUT, DESPITE THESE TOUGH TIMES, FISCAL RESTRAINT AND PRUDENT CHOICES HAVE KEPT MACOMB COUNTY ON A STEADY COURSE. WE ARE NOT FACING THE EXTENSIVE LAY OFFS, CUT-BACKS AND INCREASED TAXES THAT SO MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES ARE CONFRONTING.

THIS, TOO, IS NO ACCIDENT!

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, OUR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND ESPECIALLY THE MACOMB COUNTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT, ABLY DIRECTED BY *DAVE DIEGEL*, HAVE HISTORICALLY ALL BEEN COMMITTED TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INTEGRITY.

TWO WEEKS AGO, MY FELLOW COMMISSIONERS DEPARTMENT HEADS AND I GATHERED TO BRAINSTORM WAYS WE CAN *CUT COSTS EVEN FURTHER*; HOW WE CAN *STREAMLINE* MACOMB COUNTY GOVERNMENT EVEN MORE. NOT ONLY DO WE WANT TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNOR GRANHOLM IN HELPING TO REDUCE THE STATE'S DEFICIT BUT WE WANT TO BE A TEAM OF COMMISSIONERS, REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRAT, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND EMPLOYEES ALL HEADED TOWARD THE SAME GOAL. *ALL PULLING TOGETHER* SO THAT IN THE YEARS AHEAD WE CAN BE AS FINANCIALLY SOUND AND VIABLE AS WE ARE TODAY.

LET ME GIVE YOU AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF WHAT A RECORD OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY MEANS IN PRACTICAL TERMS:

MOODY'S INVESTORS' SERVICE HAS AWARDED ITS

HIGHEST BOND RATING TO MACOMB COUNTY.
THIS IS THE *FIRST* TIME IN MACOMB COUNTY'S 184 YEAR HISTORY THAT THE COUNTY HAS OBTAINED a AAA RATING! THERE ARE ONLY 2 OTHER COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN AND ONLY 42 OTHERS IN THE NATION THAT ENJOY SUCH A RATING.

IN AWARDING THE RATING, MOODY'S INDICATED THAT IT WAS BASED ON MACOMB COUNTY'S DEMONSTRATED RECORD OF PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION, CONSERVATIVE BUDGETING PRACTICES, AS WELL AS ITS SUBSTANTIAL AND GROWING TAX BASE. ALL OF THIS, COMBINED WITH COMPARATIVELY LOW DEBT LEVELS, LED TO THIS OUTSTANDING RECOGNITION!

NOW LET ME CLARIFY OUR BONDING DEBT LEVEL IN PLAIN

ENGLISH: OUR DEBT PER CAPITA IS \$31, OAKLAND COUNTY'S IS \$107 AND WAYNE'S \$352. I THINK THAT PUTS

IT INTO PERSPECTIVE AND WHY I WANT TO *CONGRATULATE EVERYONE* WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT!

LET ME GIVE YOU JUST TWO MORE IMPORTANT EXAMPLES OF THE BENEFIT OF SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT:

THE COUNTY IS PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN 2 MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

- ❖ ONE IS AN 81,000 SQUARE FOOT ADDITION TO THE YOUTH HOME THAT WILL NEARLY DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF BEDS AVAILABLE TO JUVENILE DETAINEES.
- ❖ THE OTHER PROJECT IS THE COMPLETE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE MARTHA T. BERRY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY, OUR 200 BED NURSING HOME,

WHICH, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL HAVE IMPROVED FIRE SAFETY AND SECURITY ALONG WITH MANY NEW RESIDENTIAL AMENITIES IMPORTANT TO THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY.

IN ORDER TO FINANCE THESE PROJECTS, THE COUNTY ISSUED \$32 MILLION IN BONDS. THE AAA RATING, GIVEN BY MOODY'S, SIGNIFICANTLY LOWERED INTEREST RATES ON THE BONDS, AND, IN FACT, ALLOWED COUNTY TAXPAYERS TO SAVE INTEREST COSTS IN EXCESS OF \$1.4 MILLION OVER THE 20 YEAR LIFE OF THE BONDS! SO YOU CAN SEE MOODY'S RATING IS MORE THAN A SHINY 'TROPHY', IT TRANSLATES TO REAL SAVINGS FOR COUNTY TAXPAYERS.

WE HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS GOOD INVESTORS BY MOODY'S AND I BELIEVE WE HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO BE GOOD INVESTORS AND THAT IS TO WISELY INVEST IN OUR CHILDREN. AND – I BELIEVE - ONE WAY TO DO THAT – IS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY THAT WE HAVE AS A COUNTY TO HELP OUR CHILDREN.

HERE IN MACOMB COUNTY WE, AT ANY GIVEN TIME, HAVE BETWEEN 800 AND 1,000 ABUSED CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES BUT ~~ THERE ARE ONLY 127 FOSTER BEDS AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTY. THAT

MEANS THAT THESE CHILDREN WHO IN MANY CASES ALREADY HAVE TWO STRIKES AGAINST THEM ARE SENT OUT ALL OVER MICHIGAN AND SOMETIMES EVEN OUT OF STATE FOR THE CARE THAT THEY DESPERATELY NEED. THERE IS AN ORGANIZATION CALLED CHILD HELP USA WHICH IS ONE OF THE OLDEST AND LARGEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRY DEDICATED TO THE RESEARCH, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

CHILD HELP USA HAS OFFERED TO ESTABLISH A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY IN MACOMB COUNTY AND THEY HAVE APPROACHED THE COUNTY WITH A PROPOSAL TO PARTNER WITH THEM TOWARDS THAT END. MACOMB COUNTY IS TRYING TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT WITH CHILD HELP WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO BUILD A 40 BED FACILITY ON COUNTY OWNED LAND NEAR OUR SOCIAL SERVICES CENTER ON GROESBECK.

THIS PROJECT IS NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART. AS A *MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER* AND AS A CONCERNED COMMUNITY LEADER, I AM CONVINCED WE CAN DO BETTER. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT OUR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN HAVE SUFFERED *ENOUGH* CRUELTY IN THEIR SHORT LIVES.

I WILL BE WORKING WITH COUNTY STAFF TO WORK OUT THE COMPLICATED LEGAL ISSUES OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILD HELP AND I AM SURE WE WILL FIND A WORKABLE

SOLUTION. NOT ONLY AM I CONVINCED THAT WE CAN PROVIDE A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE TO THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US, BUT I AM ALSO CONVINCED WE CAN DO IT IN A COST EFFECTIVE MANNER.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION – WHENEVER POSSIBLE – IS THE GOAL. THAT SURELY SAVES THE COUNTY MONEY IN THE SHORT AND LONG RUN. BUT IT IS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION THROUGH COUNSELING

AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT WHEN DISTANCE IS THE FIRST IMPEDIMENT.

ADDITIONALLY, OUR FOSTER CARE WORKERS ARE SOMETIMES REQUIRED TO TRAVEL GREAT DISTANCES TO WORK WITH THESE CHILDREN WHICH IS COSTLY IN TIME,

MONEY AND RESOURCE.

LAST NOVEMBER, AFTER MANY MONTHS OF DEBATE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PASSED A RESOLUTION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATING WITH CHILD HELP OVER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A LEASE. I HAVE ASKED OUR CORPORATION COUNSEL TO MOVE IN HASTE WITH THIS ISSUE AND, HOPEFULLY, WE WILL HAVE IT BEFORE THE FULL BOARD IN MAY OR JUNE.

NOT ONLY WILL WE BE HELPING OUT OUR CHILDREN, BUT THIS PROJECT WOULD CREATE 80 PERMANENT JOBS IN MACOMB COUNTY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS ON CHILD HELP NEXT YEAR!

JUST AS VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO AN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS CHILD HELP USA, SO TOO ARE THEY INVALUABLE TO THE COUNTY. FOR THIS REASON, I INTEND TO WORK WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES AND THE OTHER SERVICE AGENCIES TO ENHANCE AND ENLARGE OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN INTEGRATED AND INTERACTIVE VOLUNTEER BANK THAT WILL BE A WIN-WIN FOR EVERYONE ~ AGENCIES AND EVERY ACTIVE OR *POTENTIAL* VOLUNTEER.

I BELIEVE TECHNOLOGY IS AT OUR DISPOSAL TO MAKE THIS NOT ONLY *DOABLE* ~ BUT DOABLE WITH AN ATTRACTIVE COST-BENEFIT RATIO. I AM CONFIDENT MY FELLOW COMMISSIONERS WILL AGREE THAT THIS IS WORTHY OF INTEREST AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

WHEN I TALK ABOUT VOLUNTEERS, I MUST TALK ABOUT OUR SENIORS BECAUSE THEY MAKE UP THE LION'S SHARE OF OUR VOLUNTEER FORCE. AND ~ BECAUSE THEY DO GIVE SO MUCH ~ WE, IN TURN, FEEL A REAL DEBT TO *DELIVER* TO THIS SEGMENT OF OUR *MACOMB 'FAMILY'*. IT IS IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT THAT OUR COUNTY IS

MATURING AT A *DRAMATIC RATE*. ACCORDING TO THE 2000 CENSUS, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGED 65 AND OLDER

IN MACOMB COUNTY ROSE NEARLY 22% OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS. THIS IS SIGNIFICANT WHEN WE CONSIDER THAT THE AVERAGE INCREASE IN SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN WAS 5.4% AND THE OVER-ALL INCREASE IN THE STATE WAS ONLY 10%.

HERE AGAIN, WE HAVE CONFRONTED THE CHALLENGE IN PRACTICAL AND POSITIVE WAYS. LET ME SITE JUST TWO OF MANY:

- ❖ THE COUNTY'S SENIOR CITIZEN PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE STATE AND QUITE POSSIBLY THE COUNTRY. THE PROGRAM HAS HELPED TO REDUCE THE COST OF PRESCRIPTIONS ~~ 690,000 FILLED ~~ AND HAS ALLOWED SENIORS TO SAVE NEARLY \$10 MILLION SINCE ITS INCEPTION.
- ❖ A SECOND PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM , THE PRESCRIPTION RESOURCE NETWORK OR (PRN) IS AN INITIATIVE THAT WAS BORN THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. MEMBERS OF UNITED WAY MACOMB DIVISION JOINED BY THE COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS DEPARTMENT, MT. CLEMENS GENERAL AND ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITALS HAVE WORKED *SEAMLESSLY* AND *DILIGENTLY* OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS TO BRING THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM TO FRUITION. PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE MACOMB BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THIS PROGRAM HAS SUCCESSFULLY HELPED TO OBTAIN MEDICATION FOR CITIZENS FROM AGE 19-ON WHO ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD THEIR PRESCRIBED MEDICATION. AS OF JANUARY, THE PRESCRIPTION RESOURCE NETWORK HAS HELPED 638 CLIENTS BY OBTAINING PRESCRIPTIONS THAT WOULD HAVE COST THE RESIDENTS \$ 1.7 MILLION.

THERE ARE MANY MORE I COULD MENTION BUT YOU

“GET THE PICTURE” ~ AND ~ WHEN IT’S PEOPLE

HELPING PEOPLE ~

IT’S A WONDERFUL PICTURE, INDEED!!

I WANT TO MOVE ON NOW TO ANOTHER TOPIC ~~
ONE THAT IS JUST AS SPECIAL TO US:

WE ARE SO BLESSED TO LIVE IN THE “HEART OF THE
GREAT LAKES”ON THE SHORES OF LAKE ST. CLAIR ~
AND ON THE BANKS OF THE CLINTON RIVER!
WITH THESE *NATURAL TREASURES* COME THE
OBLIGATION OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP.

LET ME DESCRIBE SOME OF OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
OUR RECORD AS GOOD STEWARDS:

❖ THE COUNTY IS IN THE SECOND YEAR OF A TWO
YEAR ILLICIT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION PROGRAM
FUNDED BY THE STATE’S CLEAN MICHIGAN
INITIATIVE AND THE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS. THE PROJECT INVOLVES
SURVEYING STREAMS AND OPEN DRAINS IN ORDER TO

IDENTIFY SOURCES OF SEWAGE POLLUTION.
THROUGH DECEMBER, THE MACOMB COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS SURVEYED OVER 273
MILES OF STREAMS AND DRAINS AND HAS LOCATED
OVER 175 POTENTIAL SOURCES OF SEWAGE
POLLUTION.

WHEN THESE ILLICIT CONNECTIONS ARE FOUND THE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT SWIM TEAM, THE PUBLIC WORKS
OFFICE AND THE MUNICIPALITIES INVOLVED WORK
TOGETHER TO INSURE THAT CORRECTIVE ACTION IS

TAKEN.

MACOMB COUNTY IS THE ONLY COUNTY IN MICHIGAN WHICH HAS EMPLOYED AN ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR TO NOT ONLY INVESTIGATE POLLUTION SOURCES, BUT ALSO TO SEEK CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF THOSE WHO WOULD INTENTIONALLY POLLUTE OUR WATERWAYS. MARK RICHARDSON, WHO WORKS OUT OF CARL MARLINGA'S OFFICE, IS THE PROSECUTOR IN CHARGE OF WATER QUALITY FOR THE COUNTY – THAT IS HIS ONLY JOB AND HE HAS DONE IT WELL.

MARK HAS HANDLED OVER 300 CASES SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THIS PROGRAM.

ALONG THE SAME LINE, THIS PAST YEAR, MACOMB COUNTY ENACTED THE “*POINT OF SALE*” REGULATION THAT REQUIRES INSPECTION OF SEPTIC FIELDS AND DRINKING WELLS AT THE TIME OF THE SALE OF A HOME. APPROXIMATELY 25,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE COUNTY ARE SERVED BY AN ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM. AND, APPROXIMATELY TEN TO TWENTY PERCENT OF THESE SEPTIC FIELDS MAY BE LEAKING, WHICH CAN LEAD TO CONTAMINATION OF SURFACE AND EVEN GROUND WATER. WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, BUT STAYING

THE COURSE WILL HELP TO GUARANTEE THAT OUR WATERWAYS WILL BE SAFE AND CLEAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

AGAIN, IN ORDER TO COMBAT POLLUTION, MACOMB COUNTY IS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN TO INSTITUTE A REGULATION OF THIS NATURE. *SLOWLY BUT SURELY WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS.* THE CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE HAS ALSO ALLOWED THE COUNTY TO EXPAND ITS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EFFORTS BY ADDING FOUR ADDITIONAL COLLECTION SITES, WE WERE ABLE TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS

WASTE COLLECTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BETWEEN THESE COLLECTIONS, RECYCLING, AND COMPOSTING COUNTY-WIDE LANDFILL DUMPING HAS BEEN REDUCED BY AT LEAST 10%.

NOW I KNOW THAT ALL THIS TALK ABOUT WASTE AND SEWAGE IS NOT PLEASANT BUT ~ AS I SAID EARLIER ~ TO KEEP OUR COMMITMENT ~ WE MUST BE VIGILANT ~ WE MUST BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS.

SO I ALSO WANT TO REPORT TO YOU ON OUR ‘SHORES’ AND OUR ‘BANKS’. WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE A TRUE CHAMPION, DOUG MARTZ AND HIS DEVOTED BAND OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE WATER QUALITY BOARD. THEY HAVE BEEN DOWN RIGHT “DOGGEDLY DETERMINED”!

DOUG AND HIS TEAM ALONG WITH OUR OWN PEOPLE AT THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAVE MANAGED NOT ONLY TO GET THINGS DONE BUT THEY HAVE MANAGED TO BRING ALONG PARTNERS AS WELL. CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO ACTUALLY HAVE WAYNE, OAKLAND AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES – AND EVEN CANADA – TALKING AND WORKING WITH US TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF LAKE ST. CLAIR, THE CLINTON AND ST. CLAIR RIVERS?

WITH ADDITIONAL BACKING FROM SENATOR LEVIN, REPRESENTATIVES LEVIN AND MILLER, WE HAVE A GREAT CHANCE TO DECLARE OUR LAKE AND THIS REGION THE “HEART OF THE GREAT LAKES”. WORKING TOGETHER, \$2.5 MILLION IN GRANTS HAVE BEEN WON FOR THE CLINTON AND ST. CLAIR RIVERS AND \$5 BILLION DEDICATED TO HELPING COMMUNITIES DEAL WITH SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEMS TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS. WHEN I ASKED DOUG TO TELL ME WHAT HE FELT HIS GROUP’S GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT HAS BEEN HE SAID QUIETLY AND MODESTLY, “LAKE ST. CLAIR WAS LOST AND NOW IT’S

FOUND.” WE DO INDEED OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO THESE FAITHFUL STEWARDS.

AND, ADDITIONALLY, TO FURTHER PROTECT OUR WATER, MACOMB COUNTY’S HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, TOM KALKOFEN, AND HIS STAFF HAVE MAINTAINED A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SCIENTISTS AT TARDEC ~ TARDEC IS THE TANK-AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING CENTER LOCATED IN WARREN.

TARDEC IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF AN *EXCITING* GOVERNMENT ~ MILITARY ~ ACADEMIC ~PRIVATE ~ JOINT VENTURE IN R&D NOW UNDERWAY.

SPECIFICALLY, A HAND-HELD DEVICE IS BEING DEVELOPED WHICH WILL ALLOW FOR ‘REAL-TIME’ MONITORING OF WATER QUALITY. EVENTUALLY, THE MT. CLEMENS WATER PLANT AND MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WATER MONITORING PROGRAM WILL BE FIELD TESTING THE HAND-HELD SENSING DEVICE KNOWN AS “QUICK TEST”. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WILL HAVE IMMEDIATE RESULTS! THIS IS ONE MORE BENEFIT OF THE ACTIVE PURSUIT OF RESEARCH GRANT DOLLARS ~~ THIS AWARD OF \$3.5 MILLION HELPED TO MOVE THIS FORWARD.

MANY OF YOU MAY BE UNAWARE THAT THIS SAME FACILITY IS THE AVANTE GUARD OF WATER SAFETY AND PURIFICATION FOR OUR TROOPS OVERSEAS. THE POINT IS ~ THIS RESOURCE AND EXPERTISE SITS IN THE HEART OF MACOMB COUNTY AND IS AVAILABLE FOR COLLABORATION.

I WILL BE TOURING TARDEC NEXT WEEK TO LEARN FIRST HAND ITS MISSION AND HOW BEST MACOMB GOVERNMENT CAN WORK WITH THEM. MUCH THAT IS DONE AT TACOM, TARDEC AND THE NAC HAS DUEL USE ~ HAVING MILITARY, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC APPLICATIONS.

HERE AGAIN, WE NEED TO BE *MAKING THE MOST OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES* ~~ AND THAT ONLY HAPPENS IF WE BECOME REAL PARTNERS ~~

PARTNERING IS ESSENTIAL IN EVERY ASPECT OF EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING TODAY. WHETHER IT BE GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS OR COMMUNITY. THE “WHOLE” IS DEFINITELY GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS.” AND, I THINK IF WE HONOR THAT PROPOSITION, MUTUAL REGARD AND MUTUAL RESPECT WILL GO A LONG WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS ~ EVEN THE TOUGH ONES.

AND HERE’S A TOUGH ONE: TRASH DISPOSAL.

HERE’S ANOTHER AREA WHERE WE NEED TO TALK TO OUR NEIGHBORS ~ SEEK RESOLUTION ~ BUT BE FIRM ABOUT OUR NEEDS AND OUR OWN COMMITMENTS TO THE RESIDENTS OF OUR COUNTY.

FOR THIS REASON, I, ALONG WITH MY COLLEAGUES ON THE BOARD ARE WATCHING CLOSELY THE IMPORTATION OF TRASH FROM CANADA AND OTHER STATES. WE ARE PRESENTLY OPERATING UNDER A 1999 SOLID WASTE PLAN WHICH ANTICIPATED A 27 YEAR CAPACITY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MACOMB COUNTY AND SEVERAL OTHER MICHIGAN COUNTIES AT THE PINE TREE ACRES LANDFILL IN LENOX TOWNSHIP. THE 1999 PLAN DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DUMPING OF CANADIAN AND OTHER IMPORTED TRASH. WE MUST BE ASSURED THAT THE NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS ARE MET.

KEITH RENGERT, ONE OF OUR NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONERS, RECENTLY INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AT OUR MARCH MEETING THAT WILL INITIATE A FULL REVIEW OF THE TRASH ISSUE.

I WILL RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD AT OUR APRIL MEETING THE NAMES OF 14 MACOMB COUNTY CITIZENS TO SERVE ON THE SOLID WASTE PLANNING COMMITTEE. THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE CHARGED WITH UPDATING OUR PRESENT SOLID WASTE PLAN AND IS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SECURE A REDUCTION IN THE ACCEPTANCE OF CANADIAN AND OUT-OF-STATE GARBAGE AT PINE TREE ACRES IN LENOX TOWNSHIP.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MAY NOT KNOW THE STATISTICS ON THIS ISSUE, I THINK YOU WILL FIND THEM OF INTEREST:

- ❖ NEARLY 20% OF THE TRASH THAT COMES INTO MICHIGAN LANDFILLS COMES FROM PLACES OUTSIDE OF MICHIGAN. IN ADDITION TO CANADIAN TRASH, OHIO,

INDIANA, ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN ALSO SHIP WASTE TO MICHIGAN.

- ❖ THE SHEER VOLUME WILL LIKELY MEAN THAT WE WILL NEED TO SITE MORE LANDFILLS IN THE FUTURE. IN ADDITION, THE WASTE THAT POURS INTO MICHIGAN CONTAINS ITEMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY BANNED FROM DISPOSAL UNDER MICHIGAN LAW. ITEMS SUCH AS MOTOR OIL AND POP CANS ARE COMING IN FROM OUT OF STATE AND ARE DUMPED IN OUR LANDFILLS.

PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE OUTRAGED THAT THEY TAKE THE TIME TO SEPARATE THEIR BOTTLES AND CANS, KEEP THEM IN THEIR BASEMENT OR GARAGE AND THEN STAND IN LINE AT THE GROCERY STORE TO REDEEM THEM ONLY TO HAVE TRUCKS ROLL ACROSS THE BORDER FROM CANADA AND OTHER STATES TO DUMP THE SAME “ILLEGAL” CONTAINERS AND SUBSTANCES INTO OUR LANDFILLS.

YOU CAN SEE WHY WE NEED TO BE VIGILANT ~ WHY WE

NEED TO FORMULATE A SENSIBLE RESOLUTION.
RESOLVING THIS ISSUE HAS FAR-REACHING EFFECTS
BECAUSE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTLY
AFFECTS OUR PERSONAL HEALTH AND OUR COMMUNITY
WELL-BEING.

ASSUMING THE BROADER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC
HEALTH, THE COUNTY OFFERS MANY HEALTH AS WELL AS
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF

DIRECTOR TOM KALKOFEN OUR HEALTH DEPARTMENT
MOVES SWIFTLY TO ADDRESS EMERGING ISSUES.
ONE SUCH ISSUE DEMANDING OUR VIGILANCE AND
RESOLVE IS THE EMERGENCE OF THE WEST NILE VIRUS.

LAST YEAR, MACOMB COUNTY EXPERIENCED AN OUT
BREAK OF ILLNESS CAUSED BY THE WEST NILE VIRUS.
THE VIRUS APPEARED IN THE BIRD AND MOSQUITO
POPULATIONS IN MICHIGAN DURING THE SUMMER OF 2001.

HOWEVER, HUMAN INFECTION WAS NOT DETECTED UNTIL
AUGUST, 2002. BY DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR MACOMB
COUNTY HAD 114 CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED HUMAN
CASES OF WEST NILE REPORTED ~ WITH SIX RELATED
DEATHS.

BECAUSE OF THE OMINOUS HEALTH IMPLICATIONS FOR
OUR CITIZENS, THE MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT BY DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HAS PREPARED *A WEST NILE VIRUS
RESPONSE PLAN AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENT*. THESE
DOCUMENTS WERE RECENTLY DISSEMINATED TO ALL
COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES AT A MEETING HELD AT OUR
HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THERE ARE ALSO SOME COPIES
HERE TODAY FOR ANYONE THAT IS INTERESTED. IF WE
RUN OUT, YOU CAN FIND IT ON THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE AT: WWW.CO.MACOMB.MI.US/PUBLICHEALTH.

OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS

ABOUT WEST NILE VIRUS. WE ALSO NEED TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS AS TO THE PERSONAL, PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND MOSQUITO CONTROL ACTIVITIES THAT WILL HELP TO MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR INFECTION.

I HAVE ASKED PHILIS DESAELE, CHAIR OF THE HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE, TO BRING FORTH A PROPOSAL CALLING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES FROM THE COUNTY AS THEY WORK ON THE WEST NILE VIRUS PROBLEM. WEST NILE IS A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT THAT *IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY*. SO, IT IS UP TO US TO BE *PREPARED* AND *PROACTIVE* TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OUR CITIZENS.

EVERY BIT AS DYNAMIC AND SURELY AS CHALLENGING AS ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RELATED ISSUES, IS OUR SHIFTING POPULATION. THE RAMIFICATIONS ARE COUNTLESS.

AND, INDEED, THERE HAS BEEN A REMARKABLE SHIFT TO THE NORTH ~ NORTH OF HALL ROAD TO BE PRECISE. THAT CORRIDOR HAS NOW BECOME THE GREAT “*MALLWAY*” BUT, AS WITH EVERYTHING ELSE, THERE IS A PRICE TO BE PAID. YOU CAN’T HAVE BURGEONING GROWTH IN ONE PART OF THE COUNTY AND DIMINISHING POPULATIONS IN ANOTHER ~ AND NOT HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO SOLVE.

WE ARE *FORTUNATE* TO HAVE STEVE CASSIN, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND HIS SKILLED STAFF ~ ALL EXPERIENCED PROBLEM SOLVERS ~ TO HELP FORGE POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT WILL LEAD US INTO THE FUTURE.

BROWN FIELDS IN THE SOUTH ~ *GREEN FIELDS* IN THE NORTH. THERE IS NO ‘QUICK FIX’ ~ FINDING THE BEST USE IS NOT EASY ~ BUT IT IS AN IMPERATIVE!

WITH THESE PROBLEMS IN MIND AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, I AM LAUNCHING A SERIES OF THREE REGIONAL FORUMS TO HEAR ABOUT AND TACKLE SOME OF THOSE PROBLEMS. BEGINNING WITH THE SOUTHERN END OF THE COUNTY, THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE HELD THIS SPRING. THE MAYORS OF THE SOUTHERN MUNICIPALITIES WILL BE INVITED AND, IN ADDITION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, SEVERAL DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS WILL BE SEATED AT THE TABLE.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT THIS TYPE OF ONE-ON-ONE EXCHANGE WILL FACILITATE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS FACING EACH REGION OF THE COUNTY.

FROM THESE FORUMS I AM ALSO HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE HONEST GIVE & TAKE. PEOPLE TEND TO BE MORE PRODUCTIVE WHEN THEY KNOW THEY ARE BEING HEARD AND WHEN THEY ARE INVITED TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

LATER IN THE YEAR, WE WILL INVITE THE MIDDLE SUBURBAN TIER FOLLOWED BY OUR MORE RURAL NORTHERN AREA.

LAND USE WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE A MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. I BELIEVE THE INFORMATION WE GATHER WILL NOT ONLY BE IMPORTANT TO US BUT BE OF GREAT BENEFIT AS WE STRIVE TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE STATE.

GOVERNOR GRANHOLM HAS RECENTLY CREATED A COMMISSION ON "LAND USE" WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE ITS WORK AND SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR BY AUGUST 2003. I HAVE ALREADY ADVISED THE GOVERNOR THAT WE WILL SEEK THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER WITH LANSING

TO CONSERVE TIME, RESOURCES AND MONEY WHEN DEALING WITH THESE COMPLEX LAND-USE INITIATIVES.

AND INTEGRAL PARTS OF OUR LAND USE ARE THOSE “CONNECTORS” ~ ROADS AND BRIDGES - DESPITE BUDGETARY PROBLEMS ON THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS MDOT IS MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO WIDEN M-53 BETWEEN 27 MILE AND 34 MILE ROADS THIS SPRING. THIS \$40 MILLION PROJECT WILL WIDEN M-53

FROM TWO LANES TO FOUR LANES. ROAD CONSTRUCTION

PROJECTS WILL CONTINUE AS PLANNED BECAUSE OF FUNDING SET-ASIDE IN THE PREVIOUS BUDGET. THE ROAD COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE WITH THREE MAJOR PROJECTS THAT BEGAN LAST YEAR AND BEGIN THREE NEW ONES. ROADS CAN'T MOVE TRAFFIC IF THEY DEAD-END AT A CLOSED BRIDGE.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS UNDERTOOK A PROGRAM DURING FISCAL YEAR 2000 TO PROVIDE UP TO \$39 MILLION FOR BRIDGE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT. THIS UNIQUE PROGRAM IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND ROAD COMMISSION WHICH WILL REPAIR OR REPLACE A TOTAL OF 45 BRIDGES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. UNDER THE PARTNERSHIP, BOTH THE COUNTY AND THE ROAD COMMISSION HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE \$15 MILLION TO FINANCE THE PROGRAM. THIS \$30 MILLION INVESTMENT WILL ENABLE THE COUNTY TO LEVERAGE FEDERAL AND STATE CRITICAL BRIDGE FUNDS THAT OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY WITHOUT THE NECESSARY MATCH.

MANY OF THE BRIDGES SCHEDULED FOR REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED. IN ADDITION TO MAKING ROADS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE OPENING OF THE CLOSED BRIDGES WILL ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLES TO

RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES. IN MANY CASES RESPONSE TIME WILL BE REDUCED BY ONE-HALF.

AND, OF COURSE, I CAN'T TALK ABOUT ROADS WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE NEED ~~ AND THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN WANT ~~ *SOME KIND OF* PUBLIC TRANSIT. IT'S NOT A CASE OF IF ~ BUT ~ RATHER A

CASE OF WHEN AND HOW. YOU ONLY HAVE TO TRAVEL IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD AND KNOW THAT WE ARE "*MISSING THE BOAT*" WHEN IT COMES TO PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE, INEXPENSIVE TRANSPORTATION.

I THINK WE SIMPLY HAVE TO WORK HARDER AND COMPROMISE MORE IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. IT IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO MANY PEOPLE BUT NONE MORESO THAT OUR EMPLOYERS LOOKING FOR WORKERS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES. MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT

~~ ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION DIRECTLY IMPACTS OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR INFRASTRUCTION AND *YOU SIMPLY CAN'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER.*

HAVING SAID THAT I STILL BELIEVE THAT MACOMB COUNTY IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK AND WHAT I WOULD CALL A 'BEST KEPT SECRET' ~ BUT ~ THAT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE! AND FOR GOOD REASON ~ ACTUALLY FOR MANY GOOD REASONS! HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THEM:

- ❖ AMPLE LAND @ COMPETITIVE PRICES
- ❖ EXCELLENT LOCATION IN REGION
- ❖ LOW TAX RATES
- ❖ CONVENIENCE TO WATER AND RAIL TRANSPORT
- ❖ EASY FREEWAY ACCESS: I94 ~ I696 ~ M59
MINUTES FROM I75
- ❖ NEAR NEIGHBORS: DETROIT, PONTIAC,

SOUTHFIELD, PORT HURON EVEN SARNIA AND WINDSOR!

- ❖ AN EAGER AND HIGHLY TRAINED WORK FORCE
- ❖ EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ~
HIGHER ED, TECHNICAL AND SKILLED TRADES
- ❖ GREAT PARKS AND RECREATION
- ❖ GROWING CULTURAL DIVERSITY
- ❖ RESPONSIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WORKING
WITH AN ENGAGED COUNTY GOVERNMENT

BUT ~ HOW DO WE MAKE A GOOD THING EVEN BETTER?

HERE IS *ONE EXCELLENT EXAMPLE* OF PLANNING AND

PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE:

❖ IN JUNE 2001, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZED THE PURCHASE OF THE “MACOMB ORCHARD TRAIL” WHICH TRAVERSES A 23.5 MILE RAILBED–RUNNING NORTHEASTERLY FROM OUR OAKLAND COUNTY BORDER TO JUST SHORT OF OUR ST. CLAIR COUNTY BORDER. IT IS AN EXCITING PROJECT. A COMMUNITY COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE VOLUNTARY SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE AS THE TRAIL BECOMES DEVELOPED FOR WALKERS, HIKERS AND BIKERS, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS AND OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS.

OUR PARTNERS IN THE VENTURE ARE:

- ❖ SHELBY TWP.
- ❖ WASHINGTON TWP.
- ❖ CITY OF RICHMOND
- ❖ HURON CLINTON METRO AUTHORITY

WE ARE ALSO USING LANSING AS A RESOURCE TO SECURE FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRAIL. WHAT BEGAN AS A ‘GOOD INVESTMENT’ IS PROVING TO HAVE MUCH BROADER POTENTIAL. NOT ONLY TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY RELATIONS BUT TO ADD TO THE APPEAL FOR FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES TO MAKE MACOMB

COUNTY THEIR HOME.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER EXAMPLES OF “GOOD THINGS HAPPENING”:

❖ GENERAL MOTORS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO DEVELOP 312 ACRES OF VACANT LAND OWNED BY GM AT 12 MILE ROAD AND MOUND. THE PLANS CALL FOR NEW HOUSING, OFFICE COMPLEXES, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, RESTAURANTS AND PARKING STRUCTURES.

❖ AND, I’M SURE YOU’RE AWARE THAT GM’S \$1 BILLION EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF ITS WARREN TECH CENTER IS NEARING COMPLETION. IT WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT GM WILL MOVE 5,500 TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES FROM A PONTIAC LOCATION TO THE TECH CENTER IN WARREN.

❖ CHRYSLER WILL ALSO ADD 1000 MORE JOBS AT ITS MOUND ROAD PLANT.

❖ IN ST. CLAIR SHORES, THE JEFFERSON BEACH MARINA ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A \$500 MILLION DEVELOPMENT ALONG LAKE ST. CLAIR THAT WILL INCLUDE A 31 STORY HIGH-RISE AND 900 LUXURY CONDOMINIUMS AS WELL AS OFFICE SPACE AND RETAIL ON 54 ACRES.

THIS IS ALL GOOD NEWS BUT, TO KEEP THE COUNTY *HUMMING* AND BUSINESS *THRIVING*, STRATEGIC PLANNING IS THE KEY. IT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE ESSENTIAL. TO MEET TODAY’S CHALLENGES, WE MUST HAVE PLANNING THAT IS:

- ❖ DYNAMIC AND FLEXIBLE
- ❖ GROUNDED IN A FOUNDATION OF EXPERTISE
- ❖ UNATTACHED TO OUTMODED PRACTICES OF THE PAST

SIMPLY STATED “*BUSINESS AS USUAL*” IS NO LONGER AN OPTION.

THEREFORE, I HAVE ASKED COMMISSIONER MIKE WALSH, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, TO JOIN ME IN FORMING A “*VISIONARY TEAM*”; A DIVERSE GROUP OF COMMUNITY LEADERS AND EXPERTS. YOU MIGHT SAY WE WANT THE ‘MOVERS AND SHAKERS’ TO ‘SHAKE THINGS UP’ IN MACOMB’S ECONOMIC FUTURE. WE NEED A SOUND, STRATEGIC PLAN, WITH THE FOCUS AND DETERMINATION TO TURN THE PLAN INTO A REALITY.

IT’S TIME TO LET THE “CAT OUT OF THE BAG” ABOUT THIS BEST KEPT SECRET THAT IS MACOMB COUNTY

THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TALENT RIGHT HERE TO CREATE A FANTASTIC TEAM TO CREATE A STRATEGIC PLAN CRAFTED AROUND THE UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF THE COUNTY. AND ~ I INTEND TO INVITE MY FELLOW COMMISSIONERS TO BRING NOT ONLY THEIR SUPPORT BUT THEIR ENTHUSIASM TO THIS EFFORT.

AFTER ALL, FEW COUNTIES IN THE STATE OR EVEN IN THE COUNTRY CAN CLAIM GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF AN:

- ❖ URBAN
- ❖ SUBURBAN
- ❖ RURAL
- ❖ INTERNATIONAL SETTING!

IF WE ARE *PASSIONATE* ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR POTENTIAL, WE MUST:

- ❖ CHALLENGE OUR LEADERS
- ❖ ENGAGE OUR NEIGHBORS
- ❖ EXCITE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND...
- ❖ REINVIGORATE THE RESIDENTS OF MACOMB COUNTY

THIS IS OUR CHALLENGE ~ THIS IS OUR CHANCE

THE TIME IS NOW! I HOPE YOU WILL JOIN ME!!

I WANT TO CLOSE THIS AFTERNOON WITH A PERSONAL HOPE AND AN INVITATION.

I HAVE LAID OUT SOME IDEAS AND PROPOSALS HERE TODAY. THEY ARE NEITHER LOFTY NOR GLITZY. I SUPPOSE I COULD HAVE TRIED TO ‘MAKE HEADLINES’ WITH MORE AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKINGS. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME NOT JUST TO TALK BUT TO DELIVER; TO WALK THE WALK NOT JUST TALK THE TALK AS THE SAYING GOES.

BUT ~ I AM CONVINCED THAT MY COLLEAGUES AND I CANNOT ONLY DELIVER ON THESE PROPOSALS BUT DELIVER A GOOD DEAL MORE FOR THE PEOPLE OF MACOMB COUNTY.

THREE MONTHS AGO WHEN I WAS ELECTED CHAIR, I SAID I WOULD WORK TO UNIFY BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT TO BE UNIFIED MEANS “THE SKY’S THE LIMIT”.

THROWING UP BARRIERS ~ WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES MEANS PRECIOUS LITTLE CAN BE ACHIEVED. HISTORY WILL NEVER RECORD OUR PETTY DIFFERENCES. BUT LET US NOT FORGET ~

HISTORY WILL RECORD WHAT WE DID WITH THIS OPPORTUNITY AND HONOR WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

HISTORY WILL RECORD WHAT KIND OF STEWARDS WE HAVE BEEN.

HISTORY WILL RECORD THE LEGACY WE HAVE LEFT FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN AND ALL TO FOLLOW.

SO, AGAIN, I EXPRESS MY HOPE THAT WE CAN BE UNIFIED
IN OUR DETERMINATION TO SERVE OUR PEOPLE WITH
VISION AND COMMITMENT. AND, I OFFER AN INVITATION
TO DISCUSS HOW BEST WE MIGHT ACCOMPLISH THIS
GOAL.

MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN!

THANK YOU.